

NORTH CAROLINA GENERAL ASSEMBLY



JOINT LEGISLATIVE TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

DRAFT
**REPORT TO THE
2016 SESSION
of the
2015 GENERAL ASSEMBLY
OF NORTH CAROLINA**

APRIL 8, 2016

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

LETTER OF TRANSMITTAL	5
COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS	7
FINDING AND RECOMMENDATIONS	9
APPENDICES	
<u>APPENDIX A</u>	
MEMBERSHIP OF THE JOINT LEGISLATIVE TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE	10
<u>APPENDIX B</u>	
COMMITTEE CHARGE/STATUTORY AUTHORITY	11
<u>APPENDIX C</u>	
LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS	12
<u>APPENDIX D</u>	
SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION	13

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TRANSMITTAL LETTER

April 8, 2016

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

TO THE MEMBERS OF THE 2016 REGULAR SESSION
OF THE 2015 GENERAL ASSEMBLY

The **JOINT LEGISLATIVE TRANSPORTATION OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE**,
respectfully submits the following report to the 2016 Regular Session of the 2015
General Assembly.

Sen. William Rabon (Co-Chair)

Rep. Frank Iler (Co-Chair)

Rep. John Torbett (Co-Chair)

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COMMITTEE PROCEEDINGS

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

The Committee on Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee met 4 times after the 2015 Regular Session. The following is a brief summary of the Committee's proceedings. Detailed minutes and information from each Committee meeting are available in the Legislative Library, and at the Committee's website: <http://www.ncleg.net/gascripts/DocumentSites/browseDocSite.asp?nID=33>

January 8, 2016

The first meeting of the Committee following the 2015 regular session of the General Assembly was held January 8, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 1228 of the Legislative Building. Senator Bill Rabon presided. The Committee heard the following presentations: (1) STIP Amendments, Calvin Leggett, Director, Division of Planning and Programming, Department of Transportation; (2) DMV Reform & Modernization, Kelly Thomas, Commissioner, Division of Motor Vehicles, Department of Transportation, and Eric Boyette, Chief Information Officer, Department of Transportation; (3) Accelerating Highway Projects, Rodger Rochelle, Director, Technical Services Division, Department of Transportation, and Mike Holder, Chief Engineer, Department of Transportation; (4) NCSPA Capital Improvement Program, Paul Cozza, Executive Director, North Carolina State Ports Authority; (5) Freight Rail Investment, Paul Worley, Director, Rail Division, Department of Transportation; and (6) Turnpike Authority Annual Report, Beau Memory, Executive Director, North Carolina Turnpike Authority, Department of Transportation.

February 5, 2016

The second meeting of the Committee following the 2015 regular session of the General Assembly was held February 5, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 1228 of the Legislative Building. Representative Frank Iler presided. The Committee heard the following presentations: (1) Overview of Powell Bill Funds and Report on Powell Bill Expenditures for FY 2015, Majed Al-Ghandour, Manager, Project Management Unit, Division of Planning and Programming, Department of Transportation; (2) Use of Powell Bill Funds, Rose Vaughn Williams, Director of Public and Government Affairs, North Carolina League of Municipalities, (3) Rail Project Reports and Piedmont Improvement Program Update, Paul Worley, Director, Rail Division North Carolina Department of Transportation; (4) Implementation of "DOT REPORT" program, Mike Holder, Chief Engineer, Division of Highways, Department of Transportation; (5) Baseline Unit Pricing, Mike Holder, Chief Engineer, Division of Highways, Department of Transportation; and (6) Update on Progress in Meeting Outsourcing Goals, Mike Holder, Chief Engineer, Division of Highways, Department of Transportation, and Rodger Rochelle, Administrator, Technical Services Division, Department of Transportation.

March 4, 2016

The third meeting of the Committee following the 2015 regular session of the General Assembly was held March 4, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 1228 of the Legislative Building. Senator Kathy Harrington presided. The Committee heard the following presentations: (1) Overview of the Office of Equal Opportunity and Workforce Services (EOWS) including the Disadvantaged Minority and Woman-Owned Business Programs, Marci Wright, Director, EOWS, Department of Transportation; (2) Aviation Capital Investment & Aviation Development Task Force Recommendations, Bobby Walston, Director, Division of , Department of Transportation, and John Lennon, Chairman, Aviation Development Task Force, Board of Transportation; (3) North Carolina Railroad Company Annual Report, Scott Saylor, President, North Carolina Railroad Company; (4) Streamlining Right-of-Way Acquisitions and Utility Relocations, Mike Holder, Chief Engineer, Division of Highways, Department of Transportation; and (5) Review of DOT Proposals for Statutory Changes in Short Session, Mike Holder, Chief Engineer Department of Transportation, Greg Perfetti, Director of Field Support, Division of Highways, Department of Transportation, Beau Memory, Executive Director, North Carolina Turnpike Authority, Department of Transportation, Lauren Blackburn, Director, Bicycle and Pedestrian Division, Department of Transportation, and Kelly Thomas, Commissioner, Division of Motor Vehicles, Department of Transportation.

April 8, 2016

The fourth meeting of the Committee following the 2015 regular session of the General Assembly was held April 8, 2016 at 9:00 a.m. in Room 1228 of the Legislative Building. Rep. John Torbett presided. The Committee heard the following presentations: _____. The Committee approved this report, and adjourned, with plans to reconvene after the 2016 regular session of the General Assembly.

FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

2015-2016

President Pro Tempore of the Senate
Appointments:

Sen. William Rabon (Co-Chair)
Sen. Kathryn Harrington (Vice –Chair)

Sen. Warren Daniel
Sen. Joel Ford
Sen. Richard Gunn
Sen. Joyce Krawiec
Sen. Michael Lee
Sen. Paul Lowe
Sen. Wesley Meredith
Sen. Erica Smith-Ingram
Sen. Daniel Soucek

Sen. John Alexander (Advisory Member)

Speaker of the House of Representatives
Appointments:

Rep. Francis Iler (Co-Chair),
Rep. John Torbett (Co-Chair)

Rep. William Brawley
Rep. Dana Bumgardner
Rep. Becky Carney
Rep. Charles Jeter
Rep. Chuck McGrady
Rep. Rodney Moore
Rep. George Robinson
Rep. Phil Shepard
Rep. Paul Time

Rep. Joseph Dollar (Advisory Member)
Rep. Michele Presnell (Advisory Member)
Rep. Rena Turner (Advisory Member)
Rep. Lawrence Yarborough (Advisory Member)

Staff

Amna Cameron
Bryce Ball
Giles S. Perry
Wendy Graf Ray
Luke Gillenwater

COMMITTEE CHARGE/STATUTORY AUTHORITY

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

§ 120-70.51. Purpose and powers of Committee.

- (a) The Joint Legislative Transportation Oversight Committee may:
- (1) Review reports prepared by the Department of Transportation or any other agency of State government related, in any manner, to transportation, when those reports are required by any law.
 - (2) Monitor the funds deposited in and expenditures from the North Carolina Highway Trust Fund, the Highway Fund, the General Fund, or any other fund when those expenditures are related, in any manner, to transportation.
 - (3) Determine whether funds related, in any manner, to transportation are being spent in accordance with law.
 - (4) Determine whether any revisions are needed in the funding for a program for which funds in the Trust Fund, the Highway Fund, the General Fund, or any other fund when those expenditures are related, in any manner, to transportation may be used, including revisions needed to meet any statutory timetable or program.
 - (4a) Examine the importance of railroads and railroad infrastructure improvements to economic development in North Carolina, including improvements to short line railroads.
 - (4b) Study issues important to the future of passenger and freight rail service in North Carolina.
 - (4c) Determine methods to expedite property disputes between railroads and private landowners.
 - (4d) Study all aspects of the operation, structure, management, and long range plans of the North Carolina Railroad.
 - (5) Report to the General Assembly at the beginning of each regular session concerning its determinations of needed changes in the funding or operation of programs related, in any manner, to transportation.

These powers, which are enumerated by way of illustration, shall be liberally construed to provide for the maximum oversight by the Committee of all transportation matters in this State.

(b) The Committee may make interim reports to the General Assembly on matters for which it may report to a regular session of the General Assembly. A report to the General Assembly may contain any legislation needed to implement a recommendation of the Committee.

Additional responsibility of Committee

Pursuant to G.S. 143B-350(n), the Committee has the opportunity to review proposed appointments to the Board of Transportation for 30 days prior to the appointments becoming effective.

LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS

[\[Back to Top\]](#)

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

[\[Back to Top\]](#)